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University News

Washington University to host 2008 vice presidential debate:

Calling it "one of the great traditions of Washington University," Chancellor Mark Wrighton announced that the University will host the 2008 vice presidential debate, scheduled for October 2, 2008. This is the fifth consecutive time the University has been selected by the Commission on Presidential Debates to host a debate. Washington University is the only institution to host more than two debates.

New facility to house BioMed 21 research:

The largest building ever constructed on the campus of Washington University School of Medicine will be the home base for BioMed 21 — the University's innovative research initiative designed to speed scientific discovery and rapidly apply breakthroughs to patient care. The building is supported by a \$30 million gift from BJC HealthCare and will be named the BJC Institute of Health at Washington University.



(L-R) Steven Lipstein, president and chief executive officer of BJC HealthCare; Larry Shapiro, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of Washington University School of Medicine; Chancellor Mark Wrighton; and Paul McKee Jr., chairman of the board for BJC HealthCare, break ground at the site of the new building.

Volleyball team wins national title:

The Washington University volleyball team won the 2007 NCAA Division III Championship with a 3-2 (30-25, 23-20, 30-22, 28-30, 15-13) win over the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Bloomington, Illinois, on November 17. The title is the volleyball team's Division III-leading ninth in school history.

Research

Washington University Antarctica team to install seismographs:

A team of seismologists from Washington University, led by Douglas A. Wiens, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, will go to remote regions of Antarctica to place seismographs to learn about the earth beneath the ice and glean information about glaciers, mountains, and ice streams. The location of their field camp has never been visited by humans before, and up until this November, no woman has been in these parts of Antarctica either. Graduate student, Moira Pyle, will hold the distinction of being the first woman to set foot there.

Lung cancer's genetic alterations uncovered by genome researchers:

School of Medicine scientists, working as part of an international research team, have completed a massive effort to map the genetic changes underlying the most commonly diagnosed form of lung cancer. The research provides an unprecedented view of the abnormal genetic landscape in lung cancer cells from patients with adenocarcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer in the United States.



A Washington University team from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences in Arts & Sciences checks out equipment they will be taking with them to unexplored regions of Antarctica. Left to right are: doctoral student Moira Pyle; Professor Douglas Wiens, Ph.D., head of the expedition; graduate student David Heeszel; and lecturer and computer specialist Patrick Shore. Not pictured is team member and graduate student Michael Barkledge.

Here comes the sun:

As reservoirs of valuable information go, nothing beats the sun. This sphere of heat and energy holds 99.9 percent of the solar system, saved in all original proportions after planets and meteorites formed. Analyzing the sun can answer one of the biggest questions of the universe: How did our solar system evolve? Researchers in Arts & Sciences and a large team of colleagues are examining samples of solar wind from NASA's Genesis mission to look for clues to the answer.

Features

Lab cultures:

Nationwide, research institutions struggle to entice minorities to obtain advanced science degrees. A new program at the Genome Sequencing Center at the School of Medicine can at least lure them into the lab. With funding from the National Human Genome Research Institute, eight promising college students — all minorities majoring in the sciences — received their first independent laboratory experience and close mentoring as part of the Opportunities in Genomics Research program.

Digitizing the works of a 16th-century poet:

It has been almost 100 years since Oxford University Press published the collected works of Edmund Spenser. Now, Joseph Loewenstein, professor of English, and a team of Arts & Sciences undergraduate and graduate students are involved in a major project to publish a new edition for Oxford University Press, which will be complemented by an even more substantial digital archive.



Devin Lockett and his mentor, Susan K. Dutcher, Ph.D., interim head of the Department of Genetics and professor of cell biology and physiology, compare alga cultures in the lab.

A solution to Social Security and education funding:

It doesn't take a psychic to predict that this year's election season will feature plenty of debates on Social Security and education, topics that few people see as linked. But the two issues should be linked, says economist Michele Boldrin, the Joseph Gibson Hoyt Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences. In the same way that younger generations take care of their elders as a kind of "return" on their parents' investment, so, too, can the United States invest in the educational needs of its children and have the accumulated debt be paid off to retirees when it comes due.

Kudos

Rich Luenemann, head volleyball coach for the Bears, has been named the 2007 Division III American Volleyball Coaches Association National Coach of the Year.

Peter Raven, Ph.D., president of Missouri Botanical Garden and the George Engelmann Professor of Botany in Arts & Sciences, received the Crop Science Society of America's Presidential Award for outstanding contributions to crop science through education, national and international service, and research.

Heard on Campus

"It is possible to have a strong business background and bring in my altruism. When I bring the two things together, that creates what we call a social entrepreneur. Making a difference in the world is not supposed to be mutually exclusive from making money."

—Prince Cedza Dlamini, Prince of Swaziland and Spokesperson for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, during his campus lecture, titled "Ubuntu: Development, Social Entrepreneurship, and Service" on November 5, 2007

The Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts is ranked No. 5 on *Design Intelligence's* 2007 list of "America's Best Architecture and Design Schools." The top five schools of design and architecture, in order, are at: Harvard, MIT, Columbia, Cornell, and Washington University.

The Washington University men's soccer team advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III Championships, before losing 2-1 to No. 1-ranked Trinity University, and the Washington University women's soccer team advanced to the round of 16 in the NCAA Division III Championships, where they lost 1-0 to No. 3-ranked College of New Jersey.

The Washington University women's cross country team matched its best NCAA Championship finish in school history, coming in third in the 2007 NCAA Division III Championships. The Bears have finished third, third, fourth, and third nationally in the last four years.

About @Washington University in St. Louis

This newsletter is prepared by Special Development Communications Projects staff in Alumni and Development Programs. It is intended to provide a brief summary of what is happening at the University. Alumni, parents, and friends of the University for whom we have valid e-mail addresses automatically receive @Washington University in St. Louis.

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